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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Coal Mines in the Katowice Area

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1. A new method of lifting coal is in operation in the Katowice mines. High speed grabs are used to lift three to four tons at a time. In one mine alone 16 of these grabs are operating, and they lift a total of 7,000 tons in a double shift of 16 hours.
2. Sand is being dug near Katowice to fill in the pits after coal has been removed. The Poles are obliged to undertake this work in order to prevent the settlement of earth which has already caused a great deal of trouble in the area. There is visible evidence of this at Chorzow where cables have been affected.¹
3. The miners in the Katowice mines are treated well. Many new small houses have been specially built for them. These accommodations compare favorably with the accommodations allotted to other workers. Miners have special increased rations. Labor is drafted into the mines to some extent from concentration camps (sic). In these cases good output results are rewarded with a remission of sentence.
4. In the Katowice area it is believed by the local Poles that considerable quantities of the locally produced coal are exported to the USSR.

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